
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

PART I

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that through S.C.R. No. 69, S.D. 1, regular session of 2014, the legislature endorsed and supported the integrated approach and six ambitious targets of the Aloha+ Challenge to be achieved by 2030, which were also accepted by the governor, mayors of all the counties, and the chair of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs. Additionally, Hawaii Green Growth, a voluntary partnership of state, county, federal, business, and nongovernmental leaders from many sectors, including clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, planning, green jobs, and others, have supported this shared statewide commitment to sustainability.

The targets of the Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability -- He Nohona 'Ae'olia are based on current state priorities and policies and include:



- (1) Achieving 70 per cent clean energy, including 40 per cent from renewables and 30 per cent from efficiency;
- (2) At least doubling the local food production with a goal of 20 to 30 per cent of food consumed being grown locally;
- (3) Reversing the trend of natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species prevention and control, and restoration of native species;
- (4) Reducing the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 50 per cent, through source reduction, recycling, and bioconversion;
- (5) Establishing smart sustainable communities by increasing livability and resilience in the built environment through planning and implementation at the state and county levels; and
- (6) Increasing the green workforce through local green jobs and education to implement these targets.

The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to implement the natural resource management goal. These items are essential to meet the Aloha+ Challenge and to keep Hawaii unique, improve



1 the quality of life, health, and safety for Hawaii's residents
2 and visitors, and maintain Hawaii's economy.

3 **PART II**

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that climate change is
5 significantly threatening Hawaii's fresh water supplies due to
6 reduced rainfall, changes in tradewind patterns, and higher
7 temperatures. The legislature further finds that through Act
8 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, the legislature recognized
9 that fresh water is not an infinite resource and its high
10 quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested
11 watersheds. The Hawaii greenhouse gas emissions reduction task
12 force strongly recommends opportunities for reforestation
13 projects to meet targets of the Hawaii clean energy initiative.
14 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also identified
15 preventing deforestation as the largest and most immediate
16 carbon stock impact in the short term.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2016-2017 for projects undertaken in accordance with
2 watershed management plans.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART III**

6 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that additional resources
7 are necessary for emergency response and preparedness for
8 natural disasters. Events such as flooding, hurricanes, and
9 wildfires are expected to increase in frequency and severity as
10 climate change accelerates. Hawaii's responders need access to
11 new technologies developed to increase efficiency and
12 effectiveness of detection of and response to these types of
13 natural disasters that affect natural environments, as well as
14 public safety.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the natural area
16 reserve fund established pursuant to section 195-9, Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
18 may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or
19 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017
20 for equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency
21 response.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

3 **PART IV**

4 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that in order to foster
5 "A Culture of Sustainability - He Nohona 'Ae'ōia", Hawaii's
6 residents and visitors need to enjoy and connect with the
7 natural environment. Visiting natural areas cultivates respect
8 and appreciation for Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage and
9 Hawaii's natural resources. Being in natural environments
10 provides a source of exercise and may significantly reduce
11 stress and depression, increase ability to focus attention,
12 strengthen the immune system, and improve longevity. Hawaii's
13 iconic trails and natural areas are a major destination and
14 economic driver. Statewide, improvements are needed to address
15 deteriorating conditions of public access areas, particularly
16 high-use trails frequented by visitors. Further, development,
17 particularly in rural areas, can restrict access points for the
18 public to hike, gather, and hunt in public lands. Funding is
19 needed to improve the infrastructure and access necessary to
20 connect people to the natural environment that provides so many
21 benefits to the health of Hawaii's people and economy.



1 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2016-2017 for forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

8 **PART V**

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 544 S.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Watershed Management;
Emergency Response; Recreation; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes appropriations for watershed management; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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